

LATEST CABLE NEWS.

Mukhtar Pacha Demands Reinforcements at Pristina.

SPANISH OBSTRUCTIONISTS.

Explosives as an Element of Russian Reform.

AN AFGHAN HORNETS' NEST.

Nominating De Freycinet as Waddington's Successor.

IRISH POLITICAL ECONOMISTS.

[BY CABLE TO THE HERALD.]

LONDON, Dec. 14, 1879. The Standard's Pacha despatch announces that the rivers having their sources in Transylvania are rapidly falling.

The Times Constantinople despatch announces the departure of Count Zuby, the Austrian Ambassador.

The Standard's despatch from Cairo states that Gordon Pacha will remain at Massowah until a battalion of infantry arrives.

M. Marius Martin, a Bonapartist, has been elected to the Paris Municipal Council, beating his republican opponent by a large majority.

The Times Paris despatch says:—"The Chamber of Deputies have agreed to vote 600,000 francs for the prosecution of the Sahara railway survey."

The Twentieth Madras infantry has been ordered to prepare immediately for active service in Burma. They will at once proceed to their new station.

Germany, at the request of Austria, has instructed the commanders of German ships in the Persian waters to protect the Austrian Consuls, in case they are imperilled on account of the war between Chile, Peru and Bolivia.

GORTSCHAKOFF'S CIRCULAR.

The Standard's Vienna despatch says:—"Prince Gortschakoff is represented to have sent a circular to the Powers, emphatically denying that any changes are contemplated in the Russian policy." The Daily News despatch from Berlin says:—"In Russian circles the visit of Count Schouvaloff to Prince Bismarck is regarded as without political significance." Lord Dufferin has also gone to Varzin. The Governor General of Kharkoff has issued an order prohibiting the public manufacture, sale or possession of any explosive materials. The Times' St. Petersburg despatch says Russian revolutionary papers are being smuggled into Russia from Switzerland. One has been discovered containing a letter from Vera Sassulch explaining her attack on M. Trepo.

THE CRISIS IN SPAIN.

The Spanish Senate yesterday continued the discussion of the bill for the abolition of slavery in Cuba. Señors Ruiz and Gomez spoke in opposition to the bill. The ministerialist journals of to-day announce that the Cabinet Council has determined to take no steps regarding members of the minority absenting themselves from the Chambers. They also state that Señor Canovas del Castillo has had interviews with General Martinez Campos and Señor Quesada, both of whom condemn the attitude of the minority. The Paris Temps Madrid despatch says:—"All of the factions of the opposition are assembled in their bureau deliberating upon a proposition to issue a manifesto declaring that the opposition does not wish to impede the transaction of public affairs, but only desires to uphold the privileges of minorities, and after the publication of the manifesto to retire from the Chamber. The Daily News Madrid correspondent announces that no sitting of the Lower House will take place until the conflict between the Cabinet and the opposition is decided. Señor Canovas del Castillo insists upon the unconditional return of the opposition to the House."

FRENCH JUDGES.

The committee of the Chamber of Deputies on the resolution to suspend the operation of the law declaring that the judges shall be irremovable was elected yesterday. Nine of the members favor and two are opposed to the suspension of the law. All of the Ministers absent themselves from their respective bureaus during the elections. [At the opening of the present session the Chamber agreed, by 342 to 163, to take into consideration M. Boyssset's proposal for a "new investiture"—that is, a re-appointment of the magistracy. M. Le Royer assented to this course, on condition that the government was not committed to supporting it and that a serious question should be discussed in all its bearings. He added that the subject had been under the consideration of the government, and that there were tribunals which held a bad attitude and did not understand the reserve imposed on them by their functions. This is regarded as a sign that the Cabinet will not make a stand for absolute irremovability.]

MEETINGS IN IRELAND.

PIKEMEN AND ORATORS AT BALLINA—ADVOCATES OF THE PEASANT PROPRIETARY SYSTEM—THE FOUR RELEASED PRISONERS AT CARRICK-SHANNON.

[BY CABLE TO THE HERALD.]

LONDON, Dec. 14, 1879.

Several large land agitation meetings were held in the West of Ireland to-day. The meeting at Ballina was presided over by a Catholic clergyman. A corps of pikemen surrounded the place of meeting. Letters were read from Mr. Charles S. Parnell, Mr. Patrick James Smyth, Mr. John O'Connor Power and Mr. Edmund Dwyer Gray, apologizing for their absence. Among the speakers were several Catholic clergymen, Messrs. Dillon, Sexton and Mr. George Ekins Browne, Member of Parliament for Mayo. Government reporters were present taking notes of the speeches. Mr. Browne, in his address, stated some of the causes of the distress in Ireland to be the competition of American products and bad seasons at home. All of the speakers advocated a peasant proprietary system, a resolution in favor of which was adopted. Another meeting was held at Carrick-on-Shannon, whereat Messrs. Davitt, Daly, Killen and Brennan, the recently released prisoners, were present. The Grand Jury at Carrick-on-Shannon have returned a true bill against Brennan. Eight thousand persons were present at the Ballina meeting, and three thousand at the meeting on Carrick-on-Shannon. No authoritative information has yet been received of the withdrawal of the prosecution of Davitt, Daly and Killen.

GUSINJE.

MUKHTAR PACHA DEMANDS REINFORCEMENTS—RUMOR THAT RUSSIA PROPOSES TO INTERFERE—A CIRCULAR FROM THE PORTO TO ITS FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES.

[BY CABLE TO THE HERALD.]

LONDON, Dec. 14, 1879.

Paris newspapers print a Vienna telegram which asserts that Russia has proposed to the Powers a collective step at Constantinople to accelerate the surrender of Gusinje to Montenegro. The Porte has sent a circular to its representatives abroad reciting the measures taken to secure the surrender of Gusinje and expressing the hope that the Montenegrins will not precipitate matters, as some delay is necessary if bloodshed is to be avoided. A telegram from Cetinje announces that Mukhtar Pacha, who is at Pristina with ten battalions, has asked for reinforcements, and that twenty battalions have started to his relief. [The Turkish battalions being now very sparse, his command hardly exceeds three thousand men. He was ordered to reach Ipek on the 6th, where he was to be received by the Albanian notables and accompanied by them to Plava. On arriving there he was to endeavor to induce the Albanians peacefully to surrender Gusinje to the Montenegrins, by promising all the Albanians who elect to emigrate a free gift of State property and exemption from taxation for several years. Should the Albanians not accept this proposition it was expected that Turkey would finally have the Albanian territories surrendered to Montenegro by a formal ceremony, but without fighting, as the Berlin Treaty imposed on Turkey only the obligation of ceding those territories, and not of conquering them for Montenegro. The term of their surrender was prolonged till the 12th inst. The Montenegrin forces were to be withdrawn pending the result of the negotiations.]

LIBERAL ASPIRATIONS IN THE BALKAN STATES.

A DEMAND THAT THE BULGARIAN AND SERBIAN PRINCES SHALL RESIGN.

The Berlin correspondent of the London Standard telegraphs that a curious change is coming over the Balkan States. Until the outbreak of the Russo-Turkish war a strict and stern absolutism prevailed in Serbia and Montenegro. To a certain extent it obtained even in Roumania, a country whose characteristic feature in many respects is anarchy and the absence of any recognized authority. But the war and the liberal proclamations with which it was accompanied have produced a change. The liberal party in Serbia, in an age in which national freedom is advocated by the Czar, refuse to put up with the enslavement of the individual by the government. Like aspirations are even stronger in Bulgaria, where people object to be governed and put down by those who but yesterday were their fellow rayans and subjects of the Turks. As a primary consequence the Bulgarian and Serbian parliaments have desired their respective governments to resign, and may be heard to indulge in the most disloyal language even against the princes appointed to rule over them. Prince Milan, being a Serbian, does not mind what is going on, and tries to hold his own against the liberals and the Kara-Gerevitch party fanning the flames; but Prince Alexander, of Bulgaria, is said to sigh for the days that are past, and to cast longing eyes upon Potsdam and Berlin. It will depend upon the development of affairs whether he can be induced to continue in a capacity in which he has to defer to the Czar while he cannot induce his subjects to defer to himself. In the meantime the national movement is as strong as ever. In open derision of the Berlin Treaty the Bulgarian Legislature have sent the following telegram to the East Roumelian Parliament:—"The Bulgarian Legislature, having been duly inaugurated, convey the expression of their fraternal sympathies to their brothers of South Bulgaria. We pray the Almighty to bless our common endeavors for the good of our common country." This telegram was despatched with the express consent of the Cabinet.

THE FRENCH MINISTRY.

FORESHADOWING CHANGES IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE—WADDINGTON ON THE EVE OF RETIREMENT FROM THE PREMIERSHIP—LEON SAY AND DE FREYCINET.

[BY CABLE TO THE HERALD.]

LONDON, Dec. 14, 1879.

The Paris Temps asserts that the Ministry will avail themselves of the retirement of M. Le Royer from the Ministry of Justice to reconstitute the Cabinet of their own motion. In the reorganization M. Waddington will only retain the foreign portfolio. The choice for Premier lies between M. Léon Say, Minister of Finance, and M. de Freycinet, Minister of Public Works. If M. de Freycinet accepts the leadership he will have complete freedom of action in choosing his colleagues, and when the Cabinet is formed he will, with them, determine upon a common programme. The Temps adds:—"No modification of the Ministry will be made until after the adjournment of the Chambers." [The programme of the bureaux of the four republican sections embraces nine points:—1, Reform of the magistracy, by a fresh investiture, or other suspension of irremovability; 2, the gendarmerie, except as to military questions like mobilization, to be under the Ministry of the Interior; 3, enforcement of existing laws on the clergy, and, if necessary, new enactments securing respect for the State; 4, compulsory, gratuitous and lay education, and, pending repeal of the law of 1850, a certificate of study in State or municipal colleges as a condition of entering the public service; 5, considerable reduction of fees in State secondary schools; 6, a democratic and liberal law superseding imperial laws and decrees on the press and public meetings; 7, law on liberty of association; 8, as speedily as possible, the reduction of military service to three years, with abolition of volunteering; 9, reduction of the heaviest taxes on diet, such as that on intoxicating drinks.]

Later despatches say it is now certain that M. de Freycinet will be charged with the reconstruction of the Cabinet. It may be concluded that the new Cabinet will be governing the country before the end of the year.

THE ENGLISH IN CABUL.

SIR FREDERICK ROBERTS ANNOUNCES AN AFGHAN DEFEAT AND CONFIRMS MACPHERSON'S DISSEMINATED MESSAGE TO AYUB KHAN—STRENGTH OF THE OPPOSING FORCES.

[BY CABLE TO THE HERALD.]

LONDON, Dec. 14, 1879.

General Roberts telegraphs from Cabul under date of the 13th inst. that the enemy have been defeated on all sides, but that notwithstanding their heavy losses parties of Afghans still remain in the neighborhood. General Roberts announced his intention to attack on the 14th inst. (to-day) unless these parties disperse. The total British loss during the three days' fighting is forty-three killed, including six officers, and seventy-six wounded, of whom ten are officers. General Roberts has telegraphed to Calcutta a confirmation of the report of General McPherson's partial failure in his attempt on Friday to capture the ridge above the Bala-Hissar at Cabul. On Saturday morning General Baker attacked the Afghans' position with two and one-half regi-

ments of infantry, two regiments of cavalry and eight guns, and succeeded in capturing the hill and driving the Afghans from all of their positions. A letter, dated Candahar, says:—"General Stewart has been instructed to send a messenger to Ayoub Khan, the Afghan commander of Herat, requiring him to hold Herat in the name of the British government and threatening the advancement thither of a British force in case of his failure so to do." The Standard's Bombay despatch says:—"The Ghuznee force has been swollen by great numbers of men from the native tribes, and the aggregate force opposed to us is very large." The Times' despatch from Calcutta says Yakoub Khan has arrived at Lahore. He will immediately proceed to Meerut, where he will be detained for the present. The Times' Candahar despatch states that it is now certain that Ayoub Khan moved out of Herat with his troops a fortnight ago and proceeded to Urdubagh. The Telegraph's despatch from Bombay says:—"The enemy in the vicinity of Cabul numbers 12,000 men."

ALMOST CHILLED TO DEATH.

BRIGADIER GENERAL CROOK MEETS WITH A MISAPPROPRIATE HUNTING WILD GEM—HANDS AND FEET FROZEN IN A NEBRASKA "BLIZZARD."

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

OMAHA, Dec. 14, 1879.

Brigadier General Crook, commanding the Department of the Platte, and two friends who reside in Omaha, have just returned from a hunting expedition to the Platte Valley, near Schuyler, during which the former had a narrow escape from death and sustained injuries from which he has not yet fully recovered. The party were hunting wild geese on the Platte River, two miles from a farmer's house where they made their headquarters, and were on a sand bar in the middle of the stream, which at that point is about a mile wide. General Crook was concealed behind a "blind" and one of his friends was behind another. Suddenly the wind began to increase in violence, accompanied by snow, and the cold grew more intense. In a few minutes the party were in the midst of a "blizzard." General Crook shot a goose and in attempting to get it lost his hat. In following it he dropped through an ice hole. The water fortunately was not deep, but it thoroughly chilled him. He recovered his hat and remarked that he was cold and numb and would return to the house.

ALMOST CHILLED TO DEATH.

A FEW MINUTES AFTERWARD HIS FRIENDS ALSO STARTED, SHAPING THEIR COURSE BY THE RIVER'S COURSE. GENERAL CROOK WAS CALLED BY HIS FRIENDS, WHO WERE AFRAID, MIGHT HAVE MISSED HIS WAY. THE OTHER REJECTED THE IDEA, BUT DURING A SLIGHT CESSION OF THE STORM THE FIRST ORDER WAS OBEYED. A LOUD SHOUT WAS SENT UP AND REPEATED AGAIN AND AGAIN. FINALLY GENERAL CROOK WAS SEEN AND HE WAS ABLE TO SPEAK ALD. HIS COMPANIES HELPED HIM TO THE HOUSE, AND FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS HE WAS UNABLE TO PROCEED FURTHER, HIS FRIENDS REMAINING WITH HIM. HE HAD BECOME COME, AND THE BOTTLE IN DISORDER HAD FALLEN INTO THE RIVER A SECOND TIME, WHEN HE DISCOVERED HIS MISTAKE AND RAPIDLY RECOVERED HIS STEPS. BUT NONE TOO SOON. A MAN OF BRAIN AND BACKBONE, WHO WOULD PRIDE HIMSELF ON BEING ABLE TO ENDURE SEVERE STORMS WITHOUT ANY PROTECTION BUT AN OVERCOAT, AND IN MANY WINTER CAMPAIGNS HAD SEEN MORE RARE EXAMPLES OF ENDURANCE. BUT FOR HIS FRIENDS' HELP HE WOULD HAVE TESTED HIS PHYSICAL POWERS ONCE TOO OFTEN.

THE GOVERNORSHIP OF UTAH.

EXPIRATION OF GOVERNOR EMERY'S TERM—THE MAN NEEDED FOR THE EMERGENCY.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

SALT LAKE CITY, Dec. 14, 1879.

Governor Emery's term of office expired yesterday. Who shall be next Governor is a question of great interest to the people here. Governor Emery is said to have had the promise of a reappointment, and his associate federal officers have asked for it. Mr. Neil, of the Register's office, formerly private secretary of President Hayes, is recommended for appointment by some of the citizens. If President Hayes will appoint a citizen of integrity, not a political hack, a man of brains and backbone, who will honor the government, the laws against polygamy can be carried out to the satisfaction of the nation, and they will not be resisted by the Mormons. The Legislature meets in a few weeks, and a new Governor of the character described is wanted to meet the views which must be followed in the next few years if Congress acts as recommended in the President's Message and by the resolutions already introduced in the House of Representatives.

A SCHOONER ASHORE.

PROMPT RESCUE OF A CREW NEAR LONG BEACH—THE VESSEL A TOTAL LOSS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

LONG BEACH, N. J., Dec. 14, 1879.

The schooner Arctio Garwood, Captain Stevens, of Bridgeport, N. J., from Philadelphia for Boston, loaded with 394 tons of coal, consigned to the Lowell Manufacturing Company, came ashore this morning, at ten o'clock. Her crew, numbering seven men, were taken from the rigging by the crews of life-saving stations Nos. 4 and 5 before half past eleven, part by means of the breeches buoy and part by a lifeboat. Notwithstanding the drenching rain, the rescuing of the crew by the lifeboats was a feat of great interest to the people, and the remarkable coolness exhibited and the shortness of time in which the rescue was effected were much admired. The vessel, a Valentin and Green, elicited the applause and admiration of all.

STATEMENT OF CAPTAIN STEVENS.

Captain Stevens states that he left Philadelphia on Saturday, the 6th, and proceeded down the Delaware to Newcastle. He anchored there over night and then proceeded down the bay and anchored at the Morris dam, where he remained until Friday morning, the 12th, on account of bad wind. He then proceeded down the bay and anchored at the Morris dam, where he remained until Friday morning, the 12th, on account of bad wind. He then proceeded down the bay and anchored at the Morris dam, where he remained until Friday morning, the 12th, on account of bad wind.

A TOTAL LOSS.

The crew were provided with every comfort by Mr. Smith at the East End Hotel. The captain owned one-third-share of the ship. The vessel broke in half at three P. M. and will be a total loss.

TERRIBLE DEATH FROM VITRIOL.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

SCRANTON, Pa., Dec. 14, 1879.

Adam Roche, a boy fifteen years old, met with a thrilling death here to-day. He worked at the forge with his father, who is a blacksmith, in the suburbs, and was sent to town on horseback for some oil of vitriol. On his way home he was following the boy's father, who was carrying a large pail of vitriol, he jumped from the horse, fell the animal to a tree, and then proceeded to tear off his clothing, which was saturated with the vitriol stuff. His friends found him a few hours later, in his death struggle, at the foot of the tree. His clothing was torn in shreds and his face was frightfully burned where he had touched it with his hands.

THE MAINE ELECTION TROUBLE.

ANOTHER PETITION ASKING FOR AN INVESTIGATION OF THE CHARGES THAT THE ELECTION RETURNS HAD BEEN TAMPERED WITH WAS SENT FROM PORTLAND YESTERDAY TO THE GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL. THE LIST OF NAMES EMBRACES MANY OF THE MOST PROMINENT AND DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS OF PORTLAND, INCLUDING J. M. MORRILL, SIDNEY PERHAM, ISAAC WACHSBERG, ET AL., AND MANY OTHERS.

CONVICTED OF MURDER.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Dec. 14, 1879.

A special despatch to the Cincinnati Enquirer from Canton, Ohio, says that a jury yesterday found a verdict in which the State degree against Gustave Ohr, for killing John Whannough, of Philadelphia, near Alliance, Ohio, last June. A similar verdict was rendered against Ohr's confederate, George Mann, on December 6. Before the murder Whannough had been in Illinois looking for work, but, being unsuccessful, was traveling his way home and fell in with Ohr and Mann. They traveled together from Fort Wayne to the place where Whannough was murdered, a peculiar finger, the absence of a front tooth and stitches in his clothing.

THE RETIRED LIST OF THE ARMY.

FINANCIAL QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

The plan agreed upon by the opponents of financial discussion in the House to-morrow is to move an adjournment immediately after the call of States. The Speaker will facilitate this by promptly recognizing the member making the motion, so that there is every probability of the House adjourning without a test vote on anybody's resolution. It is understood that Mr. Springer, of Illinois, has a resolution which he wishes to offer, deprecating the renewal of financial discussion at this time.

THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE.

STRONG FIGHT TO BE MADE OVER THE PLACE FOR HOLDING THE CONVENTION—CANDIDATES FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP.

The contest over the selection of the place for holding the National Republican Convention is almost very lively. It has been decided to select the place where the different localities have in securing it and the other the struggle that friends of the prominent candidates are making to promote their interests. Thus far Saratoga, Indianapolis and Chicago have made the greatest outward exertions, though there has been considerable quiet work done for Cincinnati, and also for Philadelphia. A large Chicago delegation arrived to-day and took twenty-eight rooms at a leading hotel. A delegation from Cincinnati will arrive to-morrow night. At present indications are strong that either Indianapolis or Saratoga will be chosen, on the general ground that the Presidential contest turns largely, if not altogether, on results in New York and Indiana.

IT IS A CURIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE THAT THE BLAINE MEN ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO ARE VERY GREATLY EXTENDED OVER THE SELECTION OF THE PLACE OF MEETING. THE FRIENDS OF OTHER CANDIDATES SEEM TO FEEL THAT THE LOCATION WILL PROVE A VERY SLIGHT ELEMENT IN THEIR CASES. THE GRANT MEN ARE SCARCELY GIVING THIS BRANCH OF THE SUBJECT A THOUGHT, AND THE SAME SEEMS TO BE TRUE OF THE FRIENDS OF MR. SHERMAN. THE LATTER FEEL SURE OF THIS AND DO NOT THINK THAT HAVING THE CONVENTION AT CINCINNATI WOULD ADD ANYTHING TO THEIR STRENGTH. THEY WILL BE PERFECTLY SATISFIED WITH ANY SELECTION THAT IS MADE. BLAINE'S FRIENDS ARE FIGHTING THE IDEA OF CHOOSING CINCINNATI WITH UNCEASING VIGOR. THEY DENOUNCE THE PLACE, FOR ITS CLIMATE AND FOR ITS PRESENCE, IN UNMEASURED TERMS. THEY DO NOT LIKE SARATOGA BECAUSE THEY THINK SHERMAN'S INFLUENCE WILL BE TOO STRONG THERE. AS BETWEEN THAT PLACE AND INDIANAPOLIS THEY WILL, AS NOW INCLINED, VOTE FOR THE LATTER. THEY DREAD CHICAGO ON ACCOUNT OF GRANT'S INFLUENCE, AND FOR THE SAME REASON THEY FEAR PHILADELPHIA, THOUGH IN 1876 THEY TRIED TO HAVE IT CHOSEN AS THE STRONGEST PLACE FOR BLAINE.

THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE SEEMS TO BE BETWEEN THOMAS C. PLATT, OF NEW YORK, AS SENATOR KEMBLE'S REPRESENTATIVE, AND SENATOR CAMERON, WHO WILL SUCCEED MR. KEMBLE IN THE COMMITTEE AND HAS A MORE GENERAL SUPPORT. THE POINT MADE FOR MR. PLATT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF NEW YORK IN THE ELECTION. IF HE IS CHOSEN NOW THERE WILL BE A STRONG EFFORT TO KEEP HIM AT THE HEAD OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO BE CHOSEN AT THE CONVENTION.

THE RETIRED LIST OF THE ARMY—CHIEFS OF STAFF BUREAUS STILL HOLDING ON—MORE ROOM BECOMING NECESSARY.

The retired list of the army is nearly full, there being but two vacancies in the total number allowed by law. The Forty-fifth Congress increased the number that might be placed upon the retired list from three to four hundred. Shortly after this change in the law the Secretary of War commenced retiring officers until it now numbers 398. It was universally understood that among the staff bureaus of all officers at the head of the staff bureaus of the War Department, General A. A. Humphries, chief of the Engineer Corps, was the first to be retired. Then there was a halt in the proceedings. Adjutant General Townend, Inspector General Marcy, Quartermaster General Meigs, Surgeon General Barnes and Paymaster General Aldrich were all expected to follow. Not one of them has been disturbed, and now that the retired list is so nearly full there is no immediate prospect of any of them being retired. Last summer it was stated that the President had fully resolved upon the changes. The staff officers urged that the routine reports for the fiscal year ended June 30 had to be made up, and that it would be unfair to impose upon the new chiefs the duty properly devolving upon the old heads of the bureau, a suggestion in which the President concurred. It was then understood that the changes would be made immediately upon the assembling of Congress, when there were more than enough vacancies to have provided for those officers on the retired list. It has just now been ascertained that a number of promotions recently made on the active list went to fill the places of captains and first lieutenants who have gone on the retired list, so that if the President should wish to make room for his friends—and it is understood now he does not intend to do so—Congress will now have to again increase the retired list. It is understood that a bill will be introduced this week in Congress providing for the compulsory retirement of all officers at the age of sixty-two. The Senators for promotion will be surprised to hear that the present composition of the offices can only be displaced, however, by special legislation, unless there should be an increase in the mortality of the retired army officers.

THE APPROPRIATION BILLS.

The Pension and Fortification Appropriation bills will be followed this week by the Military Academy and the Consular and Diplomatic Appropriation bills, both of which, it is expected, will be in the Senate before the adjournment for the holidays. They will be substantially the same as the bills passed by the last Congress.

THE POTOMAC RIVER PROMPT IMPROVEMENTS.

It is expected that the President will send a special message to Congress during the coming week, transmitting a bill prepared by the Engineer Commission of the District, for the improvement of the Potomac River front. The President is known to regard this as one of the most important works needed at the capital. The plan, which has the approval of the commissioners, involves the changing of the Washington and the Virginia channels and throwing the sand thus removed upon the edge of the flats, then excavating the middle of those flats and turning them into a succession of lakes. Along the outer edge there is to be a sea wall,

WASHINGTON.

Party Embarrassments Over Financial Questions.

REPUBLICANS SEEKING A DIVERSION.

Probable Fate of Measures Before the House.

THE RETIRED LIST OF THE ARMY.

Coming Fight Before the National Republican Committee.

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14, 1879.

THE LEGAL TENDER DIFFICULTY—MR. BLAINE SUMMONED TO THE RESCUE.

"Unless Blaine comes down here pretty soon and stirs up Ben Hill there's likely to be trouble in our camp about this confounded legal tender business," said a Western republican to-day. Mr. Chittenden proposes to introduce to-morrow in the House a resolution for the repeal of the legal tender clause.

FROM OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14, 1879.

FINANCIAL QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

The plan agreed upon by the opponents of financial discussion in the House to-morrow is to move an adjournment immediately after the call of States. The Speaker will facilitate this by promptly recognizing the member making the motion, so that there is every probability of the House adjourning without a test vote on anybody's resolution. It is understood that Mr. Springer, of Illinois, has a resolution which he wishes to offer, deprecating the renewal of financial discussion at this time.

THE NATIONAL REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE.

STRONG FIGHT TO BE MADE OVER THE PLACE FOR HOLDING THE CONVENTION—CANDIDATES FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP.

The contest over the selection of the place for holding the National Republican Convention is almost very lively. It has been decided to select the place where the different localities have in securing it and the other the struggle that friends of the prominent candidates are making to promote their interests. Thus far Saratoga, Indianapolis and Chicago have made the greatest outward exertions, though there has been considerable quiet work done for Cincinnati, and also for Philadelphia. A large Chicago delegation arrived to-day and took twenty-eight rooms at a leading hotel. A delegation from Cincinnati will arrive to-morrow night. At present indications are strong that either Indianapolis or Saratoga will be chosen, on the general ground that the Presidential contest turns largely, if not altogether, on results in New York and Indiana.

IT IS A CURIOUS CIRCUMSTANCE THAT THE BLAINE MEN ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO ARE VERY GREATLY EXTENDED OVER THE SELECTION OF THE PLACE OF MEETING. THE FRIENDS OF OTHER CANDIDATES SEEM TO FEEL THAT THE LOCATION WILL PROVE A VERY SLIGHT ELEMENT IN THEIR CASES. THE GRANT MEN ARE SCARCELY GIVING THIS BRANCH OF THE SUBJECT A THOUGHT, AND THE SAME SEEMS TO BE TRUE OF THE FRIENDS OF MR. SHERMAN. THE LATTER FEEL SURE OF THIS AND DO NOT THINK THAT HAVING THE CONVENTION AT CINCINNATI WOULD ADD ANYTHING TO THEIR STRENGTH. THEY WILL BE PERFECTLY SATISFIED WITH ANY SELECTION THAT IS MADE. BLAINE'S FRIENDS ARE FIGHTING THE IDEA OF CHOOSING CINCINNATI WITH UNCEASING VIGOR. THEY DENOUNCE THE PLACE, FOR ITS CLIMATE AND FOR ITS PRESENCE, IN UNMEASURED TERMS. THEY DO NOT LIKE SARATOGA BECAUSE THEY THINK SHERMAN'S INFLUENCE WILL BE TOO STRONG THERE. AS BETWEEN THAT PLACE AND INDIANAPOLIS THEY WILL, AS NOW INCLINED, VOTE FOR THE LATTER. THEY DREAD CHICAGO ON ACCOUNT OF GRANT'S INFLUENCE, AND FOR THE SAME REASON THEY FEAR PHILADELPHIA, THOUGH IN 1876 THEY TRIED TO HAVE IT CHOSEN AS THE STRONGEST PLACE FOR BLAINE.

THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE SEEMS TO BE BETWEEN THOMAS C. PLATT, OF NEW YORK, AS SENATOR KEMBLE'S REPRESENTATIVE, AND SENATOR CAMERON, WHO WILL SUCCEED MR. KEMBLE IN THE COMMITTEE AND HAS A MORE GENERAL SUPPORT. THE POINT MADE FOR MR. PLATT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF NEW YORK IN THE ELECTION. IF HE IS CHOSEN NOW THERE WILL BE A STRONG EFFORT TO KEEP HIM AT THE HEAD OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO BE CHOSEN AT THE CONVENTION.

THE RETIRED LIST OF THE ARMY—CHIEFS OF STAFF BUREAUS STILL HOLDING ON—MORE ROOM BECOMING NECESSARY.

The retired list of the army is nearly full, there being but two vacancies in the total number allowed by law. The Forty-fifth Congress increased the number that might be placed upon the retired list from three to four hundred. Shortly after this change in the law the Secretary of War commenced retiring officers until it now numbers 398. It was universally understood that among the staff bureaus of all officers at the head of the staff bureaus of the War Department, General A. A. Humphries, chief of the Engineer Corps, was the first to be retired. Then there was a halt in the proceedings. Adjutant General Townend, Inspector General Marcy, Quartermaster General Meigs, Surgeon General Barnes and Paymaster General Aldrich were all expected to follow. Not one of them has been disturbed, and now that the retired list is so nearly full there is no immediate prospect of any of them being retired. Last summer it was stated that the President had fully resolved upon the changes. The staff officers urged that the routine reports for the fiscal year ended June 30 had to be made up, and that it would be unfair to impose upon the new chiefs the duty properly devolving upon the old heads of the bureau, a suggestion in which the President concurred. It was then understood that the changes would be made immediately upon the assembling of Congress, when there were more than enough vacancies to have provided for those officers on the retired list. It has just now been ascertained that a number of promotions recently made on the active list went to fill the places of captains and first lieutenants who have gone on the retired list, so that if the President should wish to make room for his friends—and it is understood now he does not intend to do so—Congress will now have to again increase the retired list. It is understood that a bill will be introduced this week in Congress providing for the compulsory retirement of all officers at the age of sixty-two. The Senators for promotion will be surprised to hear that the present composition of the offices can only be displaced, however, by special legislation, unless there should be an increase in the mortality of the retired army officers.

THE APPROPRIATION BILLS.

The Pension and Fortification Appropriation bills will be followed this week by the Military Academy and the Consular and Diplomatic Appropriation bills, both of which, it is expected, will be in the Senate before the adjournment for the holidays. They will be substantially the same as the bills passed by the last Congress.

THE POTOMAC RIVER PROMPT IMPROVEMENTS.

It is expected that the President will send a special message to Congress during the coming week, transmitting a bill prepared by the Engineer Commission of the District, for the improvement of the Potomac River front. The President is known to regard this as one of the most important works needed at the capital. The plan, which has the approval of the commissioners, involves the changing of the Washington and the Virginia channels and throwing the sand thus removed upon the edge of the flats, then excavating the middle of those flats and turning them into a succession of lakes. Along the outer edge there is to be a sea wall,

extending from a point near the Naval Observatory to the Arsenal. A portion of the flats will be left as islands. This plan of improvement retains the present wharves of the city and thus overcomes one of the chief difficulties in other plans.

GENERAL WASHINGTON DESPATCHES.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14, 1879.

THE DEAD LETTER OFFICE—A MISCELLANEOUS COLLECTION FOR SALE.

The Post Office Department has issued a catalogue of nearly twelve thousand separate "lots" of articles accumulated in the dead letter office, which are to be sold at auction in this city during the present week, commencing to-morrow. The various schedules advertise about as heterogeneous a collection as it is possible to imagine. Among the articles so carelessly mailed that no clue can be discovered to their ownership are gold watches, chains and rings and jewelry of almost all kinds; every description of wearing apparel, from men's overalls to babies' socks; books and pictures by the thousand; musical instruments, clocks, bed quilts, nails and hardware of almost all descriptions (including iron castings for machinery), perfumery, tobacco and cigars, cheese (not excepting the fraudulent Limburger variety), and almost all other sorts of ordinary shop merchandise, besides "miscellaneous articles" less susceptible of classification, which range from artificial teeth and false hair to stuffed birds and geological specimens.

THE APPOINTMENT OF SHIPPING COMMISSIONERS.

The sub-committee of the House Committee on Commerce, Representative Bliss, of New York, chairman, has been appointed to consider and report to the full committee upon Representative Cox's bill, which was introduced in the House during the first session of the present Congress, amendatory of that portion of title 53 of the Revised Statutes which relates to the appointment of Shipping Commissioners, the duties of such officers, &c. The first meeting of the committee will be held on Wednesday, the 17th inst.

A SHORT CURVE.

THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT ON THE ADDISON RAILROAD IN VERMONT—TERRIBLE DEATHS.

RUTLAND, Dec. 14, 1879.

The scene of the accident on the Addison Railroad, which occurred last night, was a short curve about one hundred rods from the east end of the lake bridge at Larrabee's Point. The supposition is that the shock was caused by the locomotive striking the curve. About sixty feet of track was completely carried away. Roadmaster Horner claims that the accident was caused by the locomotive climbing the track. The engine rolled about fifty feet down a clay embankment, and after striking the passenger cars, it was started and lodged, bottom side up, with its trucks broken off. The train was composed of freight and passenger cars. The three freight cars followed the locomotive down the embankment, but were not damaged. A freight and a passenger car remained on the track. None of the occupants of the latter were